



Iowa Department of Human Services

Terry E. Branstad
Governor

Kim Reynolds
Lt. Governor

Charles M. Palmer
Director

INFORMATIONAL LETTER NO.1508

DATE: June 2, 2015

TO: All Iowa Medicaid Providers Excluding Waiver and Individual Consumer Directed Attendant Care (CDAC)

FROM: Iowa Department of Human Services (DHS), Iowa Medicaid Enterprise (IME)

RE: Implementation of Referring or Prescribing Provider Requirement for Prescription Medications Delayed

EFFECTIVE: Upon Receipt

The IME is delaying implementation of the Referring and Prescribing Provider requirement for prescription medications as originally announced in Informational Letter [1416](#)¹. In the next few months, the IME intends to issue additional information on the implementation date of this requirement.

Upon implementation of the above mentioned requirement, pharmacy claims that are submitted to the IME with a prescribing National Provider Identifier (NPI) that is not enrolled with the Iowa Medicaid program will be denied. This will include **all** prescription medications including refills on maintenance pharmaceuticals.

This requirement will impact all Iowa Medicaid members. Not enrolling with Iowa Medicaid can delay member access to vital medications and cause unnecessary complications.

Regulations within the Affordable Care Act (ACA) intended to strengthen the integrity of each state's Medicaid program, require that providers who prescribe (order) or are indicated as a referring provider on a Medicaid claim must be enrolled as participating providers in the program. No provider type or facility is exempt from this requirement. The requirement subjects referring or prescribing providers to the same Medicaid screening and verification processes as all other providers indicated on a claim. This helps ensure the integrity of the payment.

Iowa Medicaid already requires referring or prescribing NPIs on claims for consultation, independent lab or durable medical equipment (DME) as announced in [Informational Letter 1330](#)². Please reference the current [claim form instructions](#)³ found on the DHS website for these requirements.

¹https://dhs.iowa.gov/sites/default/files/1416_Referring_or_Prescribing_Providers_Must_Be_Enrolled_With_low_a_Medicaid.pdf

²<http://dhs.iowa.gov/sites/default/files/1330%20Referring%20or%20Prescribing%20Providers%20Must%20be%20Enrolled%20with%20Medicaid.pdf>

Any organization with residents, physician assistants, dentists, or licensed medical professionals rendering services that are not enrolled with Iowa Medicaid, should enroll, at minimum, as a referring/prescribing provider by completing the [Ordering/Referring Provider Enrollment Application](#)⁴.

To assist providers in identifying referring/prescribing provider participation, the IME has developed a tool for confirming the active status of the referring/prescribing provider for each date of service. The [Search for Ordering and Referring Providers](#)⁵ is available on the DHS website.

The IME appreciates your continued partnership as we work to implement ACA and improve program accountability. If you have any questions, please contact the IME Provider Services Unit at 1-800-338-7909 or by email at imeproviderservices@dhs.state.ia.us

³ <http://dhs.iowa.gov/ime/providers/claims-and-billing>

⁴ https://dhs.iowa.gov/sites/default/files/470-5111%20ver%202-13_0.pdf

⁵ <https://secureapp.dhs.state.ia.us/brprovidersearch/>